

April 17, 2009

The Life of Glenna Bovee McKnight



- The funeral for Glenna Bovee McKnight will be held Saturday, April 16, 2009, 11 a.m., at the United Methodist Church, Conde. The Rev. Rob Moorlach will officiate. Burial will follow in the Conde Cemetery.
- Glenna Marie Bovee McKnight, born September 26, 1928 in Turton, South Dakota, daughter of Lloyd and Marie Lawrence Bovee, died at age 80 on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009, after a long illness. Her husband, James T. McKnight and son, Glenn McKnight, of Belle Valley, Pennsylvania, were with her when she was called to be with God.
- She graduated from Conde High School in 1946, as part of a war-time graduating class of twelve students. She studied history at Swarthmore College

in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, graduating with honors in 1950. Shortly after graduation, she married Swarthmore classmate, James T. McKnight, in the Conde Methodist Church. They embarked on married life in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Jim earned a Ph.D. in organic chemistry at M.I. T. They subsequently lived in Texas, New Jersey, New York, and Massachusetts, following Jim's career as an industrial research scientist.

- Along the way, she enjoyed a 40-year career in early childhood education. Starting out as a teacher in the North Branch Reformed Church nursery school, she went on to earn a master's degree in early childhood at Keene State University and a doctorate in family and community education at Columbia University Teacher's College. She served as an advisor to churches seeking to start or improve their nursery school programs, founded and taught at an innovative public pre-school at Paramus High School in Paramus, New Jersey, and helped to launch the department of early education at Somerset County College. In Massachusetts, she had fifteen years of being her own boss when she founded and served as director of the Church Street Family Center, a pre-school program in Foxborough.

- She always believed that her greatest achievement was neither her education nor her career, but her family. Her six children, Diane, Kim, Lee, Glenn, Carolyn and Steven, carried on either her husband's facility for science and her own fascination with education or both, and are scattered from New York to California, with careers in science and education. Her sons-in-law, Larry Esposito and Rajeev Talwani, daughters-in-law Beth Rose (deceased), Elaine Mendes McKnight, Vicki Kaz

merski, and Linda Amstrong, and 13 grandchildren, ages 9 months to 27 years, were also a source of great joy for her. Rhea, Ariel, Laura, Aidan, Phillip, William, Christina, Milo, Lucy, Jasper, Reilly, Benjamin and Keira will all miss their grandmother, who loved to send them books and hear about their adventures.

- When Glenna and Jim chose to retire at 75 to Manlius, New York, to be near their son, Professor Lee McKnight of Syracuse University, and his family, Glenna found Manlius and Fayetteville to be warm and welcoming communities. Manlius Senior Center, with its book groups, exercise and memoir-writing classes, and the Fayetteville United Methodist Church, both provided her with many hours of fun and fellowship.

Glenna Bovee McKnight, 80



Glenna Bovee McKnight, 80, Manlius, NY and formerly Conde, SD, died Sunday, April 12, 2009 at University Hospital, Syracuse, NY, after a long illness. Her husband, James T. McKnight, and son, Glenn McKnight, Belle Valley, Penn., were with her when she was called to be with God.

Her funeral was Saturday, April 18, 2009 at the United Methodist Church, Conde, with the Rev. Rob Moorlach officiating. Burial followed in the Conde Cemetery, with Paetznick-Garness Funeral

Chapel, Groton, in charge of arrangements.

Glenna Marie Bovee McKnight was born September 26, 1928, Turton, SD, to Lloyd and Marie (Lawrence) Bovee. She graduated from Conde High School in 1946, as part of a wartime graduating class of 12 students. She studied history at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, graduating with honors in 1950. Shortly after graduation, she married Swarthmore classmate, James T. McKnight, in the Conde Methodist Church. They embarked on married life in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Jim earned a Ph.D. in organic chemistry at M.I.T. They subsequently lived in Texas, New Jersey, New York, and Massachusetts, following Jim's career as an industrial research scientist.

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Services are pending for Saturday with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.